

DNERR Coastal Training Program 2016 Advisory Committee Meeting Notes

February 12, 2016 St. Jones Reserve

Participants: Kelly Valencik, Delaware National Estuarine Research Reserve (DNERR) Coastal Training Program Coordinator; Maggie Pletta, DNERR Education Coordinator; Kim Cole, DNERR Manager; Martin Wollaston, University of Delaware Institute for Public Administration (IPA); David Edgell, Office of State Planning Coordination; Dorothy Morris, Office of State Planning Coordination; Sari Rothrock, Partnership for the Delaware Estuary; Susan Love, DNREC Division of Energy and Climate; Bob Scarborough, Delaware Coastal Programs; Brittany Haywood, DNREC Wetland Monitoring and Assessment Section

Other Committee Members not in attendance: Wendy Carey, Delaware Sea Grant

Handouts distributed (available upon request): Agenda, CTP 2015 Year in Review, CTP Projections for 2016, Town of Frederica and Sea Level Rise one pager, and 2012-2017 Coastal Training Program Strategic Plan

CTP Highlights of 2015 and Projections for 2016

Trainings and Workshops

- Kelly reviewed highlights of the Delaware Coastal Training Program from 2015 and discussed how they meet the strategic goals and priority issues in the Delaware CTP's program strategy for 2012-2017. Projects of note include the:
 - Creating a Flood Ready Community Training. This was the 2nd iteration of the event and we'll be offering it again in May 2016. The training reviewed the multiple sources of flood risks to Delaware's communities and presented ways they can be addressed and mitigated through practical community planning, codes, and ordinances.
 - HURRIPLAN Resilient Design for Coastal Communities. Highly rated training from participants. The course provided professionals with the training necessary to integrate resilient community planning and building design strategies with civic and commercial projects located in hurricane-prone areas. In addition to discussing existing regulations, this course featured best practices to increase community shelter capacity while addressing design concerns such as sustainability, accessibility, architectural aesthetics, and regional culture.

Technical Assistance Projects

- The example of the technical assistance project in the Town of Frederica was discussed (see handout for additional project information). The Coastal Programs, Division of Energy and Climate, and Office of State Planning Coordination staff worked together with the contractor on this project to develop a process that resulted in provisions on sea level rise and climate adaption in the Comprehensive Plan update.

- This type of work is also important for building the capacity of contractors to assist communities in Delaware with developing plans and codes that will help them become more resilient in the future to climate impacts and coastal hazards. Contractors will be an important target audience in the future.
- It is also key to have a willing community in order to do this work. We should start thinking about how to address issues in towns where there is public push-back on changing zoning and codes for resilience – are there property rights issues? How do we balance these with the need prepare for hazards and climate impacts?
 - The Institute for Public Administration may be able to present this at one of their Local Government Leadership courses in the future. This can be discussed at the next planning meeting with the Creating a Flood Ready Community training team.
- David will send the results of the Town of Frederica and Town of Little Creek’s community-wide perception surveys to the Committee for review.
 - Everyone is to share suggestions if they have them on how to improve the questionnaire so it can be more useful to other communities. For example, the Delaware Coastal Program (DCP) will be working with the Town of Slaughter Beach on a Resilient Community Partnership project, with the support of the CTP, and this may be an important tool to use to begin to assess communities’ needs and views on resiliency.
- Martin is also developing a GIS story map to show sites of resiliency projects in Delaware
- The CTP and DCP could also work with the Office of State Planning Coordination to integrate resiliency planning into County and Municipality Comprehensive Plan requirements
- Susan met with Jerome Lewis, UD IPA, to discuss strategies for the Division of Energy and Climate to use funding this is available from REGGI to help Delaware communities become climate prepared.
- The definition and usage of the term “resilience” may need to be re-examined as we continue to work with more communities on this. It is a term that does not resonate highly with the public and also may mean different things to different people.
- The CTP will be assisting DCP with the Resilient Community Partnership project that recently selected the Town of Slaughter Beach to work with in the next fiscal year. The Town has identified several issues that puts it at risk – ocean front & marsh flooding, drainage issues, infrastructure updates, etc. and the DCP will work with them (with project funding up to \$75,000) to conduct a vulnerability assessment and then help the community to identify and move forward on steps they can take adapt to climate change impacts. The CTP will assist with facilitating this process and work on engaging their community members. In addition, the CTP will also work to bring in other community and municipality leaders throughout the project so they can also learn from the process. Results of the project will also be shared by the CTP & DCP at future workshops for community and municipality leaders.
- The CTP will be changing the format of its enewsletter to not only contain information about the DE CTP’s trainings and workshops, but additional content that would connect community leaders and practitioners that work with them to other informative resources and funding opportunities for climate resiliency planning and coastal resource management. Kelly invited

Committee member to share information that would be helpful to distribute through this - e.g. other trainings, funding sources, technical assistance programs, tools with the CTP for inclusion. This is intended to be a quarterly newsletter.

- It was brought up that it would be helpful to hold an additional meeting of the Advisory Committee halfway through the year so we could have more time to plan for the upcoming year, discuss the needs of our coastal decision makers in Delaware, and to determine how the CTP can best meet them. Kelly will reach out to the Committee members earlier this year to plan a summertime meeting in addition to our winter meeting.

Discussion on how to better demonstrate CTP's work and technical assistance projects

- It was suggested that the charts at the end of the Year in Review document could list the different communities that have attended the CTP events in the past year as well show the number of target audience (local government, state agency, consultant, academia, etc.) that attended.
- Brittany has a list of contractors that the WMAP office has contacted for past living shoreline workshops that could be shared with those interested.
- It is difficult to demonstrate the CTP's work on technical assistance projects in a single chart, so it was asked of the Committee how that work could best be shared.
 - One suggestion was to track hours spent in community meetings
 - The CTP could also start following up with technical assistance project participants after a year to see what new measures or changes have been implemented in their work. This could be done after trainings with those participants as well – and participants could be asked if they applied the information learned.
 - The CTP could track the names of each community, municipality, organization, agency, etc. that it has worked with.
 - The OSPC also tracks the implementation of Comprehensive Plans annually. Towns turn in reports, and these could be shared so the CTP can see if technical assistance projects or recommendations have been implemented – specifically, the CTP could look at the town of Frederica, Little Creek or Laurel's reports to check progress. We could also use this information to identify what things the towns are and are not able to do, and use this to determine how we can better help them in the future.

Follow up action items:

- Martin/Kelly/Susan/Wendy - Discuss options for a future training at IPA's Local Government Leadership series regarding property rights issues and resiliency/adaptation at the next Creating a Flood Ready Community team planning meeting (Kelly will send out this meeting invite before end of February).
- David Edgell will send the results of the Town of Frederica and Town of Little Creek's community-wide perception surveys to the Committee for review.

- Everyone -Share feedback/suggestions on how to improve the town questionnaire shared by the Office of State Planning Coordination so they can be more useful in asking about SLR and climate impact in other communities.
- Everyone - Share information that would be helpful to distribute to community leaders and practitioners about climate resiliency planning and coastal resource management through the reformatted quarterly CTP enewsletter - e.g. other trainings, funding sources, technical assistance programs, tools.
- Everyone –Let Brittany know if you would like the contact information for contractors
- All – Send Kelly any content that would be helpful to share in a CTP enewsletter to community leaders/practitioners – e.g. other trainings, funding sources, technical assistance programs, tools that would be helpful for climate resiliency planning and coastal resource management.
- Kelly – Contact David/Dorothy for annual Comp Plan reports for technical assistance project towns.